

## CLAIMS

1. A multi-speed transmission comprising:

an input shaft;

an output shaft;

5 first, second and third planetary gear sets each having first, second and third members;

said input shaft being continuously interconnected with a member of said planetary gear sets, and said output shaft being continuously interconnected with another member of said planetary gear sets;

10 an interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set and said first member of said third planetary gear set;

a first torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first planetary gear set with a member of said second or third planetary gear set;

15 a second torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said second planetary gear set with a member of said first or third planetary gear set;

a third torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said third planetary gear set with a member of said first or second planetary gear set;

20 a fourth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first, second or third planetary gear set with another member of said first, second or third planetary gear set;

a fifth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first or second planetary gear set with a member of said third planetary gear set, or with a stationary member;

25 a sixth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said second or third planetary gear set with a member of said first planetary gear set, or with said stationary member; and

a seventh torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first, second or third planetary gear set with said stationary member;

30        said torque-transmitting mechanisms being engaged in combinations of three to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio between said input shaft and said output shaft.

2.        The transmission defined in claim 1, wherein said first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth torque-transmitting mechanisms comprise clutches, and said seventh torque-transmitting mechanisms comprises a brake.

3.        The transmission defined in claim 1, wherein said first, second, third, fourth and fifth torque-transmitting mechanisms comprise clutches, and said sixth and seventh torque-transmitting mechanisms comprise brakes.

4.        The transmission defined in claim 1, wherein said first, second, third and fourth torque-transmitting mechanisms comprise clutches, and said fifth, sixth and seventh torque-transmitting mechanisms comprise brakes.

5.        The transmission defined in claim 1, wherein planet carrier assembly members of each of said planetary gear sets are single-pinion carriers.

6.        The transmission defined in claim 1, wherein at least one planet carrier assembly member of said planetary gear sets is a double-pinion carrier.

7.        A multi-speed transmission comprising:

an input shaft;

an output shaft;

5                   a planetary gear arrangement having first, second and third planetary gear sets,  
each planetary gear set having first, second and third members;

                  said input shaft being continuously interconnected with a member of said  
planetary gear sets, and said output shaft being continuously interconnected with another  
member of said planetary gear sets;

10                  an interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of  
said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set, and said first  
member of said third planetary gear set; and

                  seven torque-transmitting mechanisms for selectively interconnecting said  
members of said planetary gear sets with a stationary member or with other members of said  
15                  planetary gear sets, said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms being engaged in combinations  
of three to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio  
between said input shaft and said output shaft.

8.           The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a first of said seven torque-  
transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said first  
planetary gear set with a member of said second or third planetary gear set.

9.           The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a second of said seven  
torque-transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said  
second planetary gear set with a member of said first or third planetary gear set.

10.          The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a third of said seven torque-  
transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said third  
planetary gear set with a member of said first or second planetary gear set with said stationary  
member.

11. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a fourth of said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said first, second or third planetary gear set with another member of said first, second or third planetary gear set.

12. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a fifth of said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said first or second planetary gear set with a member of said third planetary gear set, or with said stationary member.

13. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a sixth of said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said second or third planetary gear set with a member of said first planetary gear set, or with said stationary member.

14. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein a seventh of said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms is operable for selectively interconnecting a member of said first, second or third planetary gear set with said stationary member.

15. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein planet carrier assembly members of each of said planetary gear sets are single-pinion carriers.

16. The transmission defined in claim 7, wherein at least one planet carrier assembly member of said planetary gear sets is a double-pinion carrier.